UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/306
17 April 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 7 APRIL 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF ARGENTINA, CANADA, FRANCE, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Friends of the Secretary-General on the question of Haiti have the honour to request that the text of the attached statement be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Emilio J. CARDENAS
Permanent Representative of
Argentina to the United Nations

(Signed) Robert R. FOWLER
Permanent Representative of
Canada to the United Nations

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MERIMEE
Permanent Representative of
France to the United Nations

(Signed) Enrique TEJERA-PARIS
Permanent Representative of
Venezuela to the United Nations

(Signed) Madeleine K. ALBRIGHT
Permanent Representative of
the United States of America
to the United Nations

95-10871 (E) 170495 180495

/...

Annex

[Original: English/French]

Statement of the Friends of the Secretary-General on the question of Haiti

The Friends of the Secretary-General on the question of Haiti welcome the transition on 31 March 1995 from the Multinational Force in Haiti to the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), as provided for in Security Council resolution 940 (1994). The Friends congratulate those Member States that participated in the multinational force for the performance of their personnel in establishing a secure and stable environment in Haiti.

Much has been accomplished since the return to office of the democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, on 15 October 1994. A new prime minister and a constitutional government have assumed their proper functions. Efforts are under way to reform the justice system, to develop an effective civil administration and to establish a new permanent police force, trained to respect human rights and the rule of law. As called for in resolution 940 (1994), the Government of Haiti has taken practical steps to organize free and fair legislative elections. The Friends note with satisfaction the role of the International Civilian Mission (MICIVIH) and UNMIH in assisting the Haitian authorities with the electoral process.

However, much remains to be done to build on these positive achievements. The security situation in Haiti remains a matter of concern. While UNMIH's presence will assist the Government of Haiti to sustain a secure and stable environment, the early deployment of a permanent and effective police force and the reactivation of a functioning and fair justice system by the Haitian authorities are central to Haiti's long-term stability. In this regard, the Friends join the Secretary-General's call of 23 March for Member States to contribute to the creation of an adequate police force in Haiti and to the international police monitoring programme.

Continued engagement and commitment by all Haitian parties to the successful organization of free, fair and peaceful legislative and local elections in June, a crucial step in consolidating democracy, is another key priority. Finally, national reconstruction and reconciliation efforts need to be intensified, to reduce the potential for violence and uncertainty.

The Government and people of Haiti bear the main responsibility for these efforts, which are of fundamental importance to Haiti's political, economic and social reconstruction. The Friends underline their firm support for President Aristide and the Government of Haiti for the progress already made and for ongoing efforts to this end. However, the Friends strongly underline the importance of immediate and sustained international assistance in supporting the Haitian people through international financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral programmes. Ongoing political engagement is also critical. The sustained commitment of the international community is indispensable to the prospects for long-term peace and stability in Haiti.

The Friends express their confidence that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UNMIH and MICIVIH will continue to assist the Government and people of Haiti to fulfil these objectives. The Friends reaffirm their determination to support the Secretary-General in these efforts, and look forward to his report on the deployment of UNMIH.